QUALITY NOT QUANTITY

The Chatham Chatter

TIME & TIDE WAIT FOR NO MAN

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CHATHAM INN OWNER MURDERED;FRIEND ARRESTED; PLEADS NOT GUILTY;HEARINGS AT HARWICH ON 14TH

Edward Johnson Found Murdered On August 3rd

Edward Johnson, 76 year old owner of the Cockle Cove Inn, was found murdered on the morning of August 3rd at the shack of Lewis Rogers, a life long friend of his-82 years of age, on the East Harwich, Chathamport line. Johnson had left Cockle Cove Inn Saturday night to take Rogers to his home according to the statements of guests at the Inn was intoxicated. He was found by his son, Edward N.N. Johnson, at 8:50 a.m on the floor of his shack Sunday morning. Rogers was arrested by Chief of Police, Everett R. Eldredge on suspicion at the scene of the crime. He was arraigned in Provincetown District Court Monday where he pleaded guilty but on the request of District Attorney William C. Crossley he changed the plea to not guilty, Rogers told police that he did not remember anything about what continued page 4

Boat Rescued

The New Bedford Dragger, Dolora M, sprung two planks three miles S.E. of the Bell buoy Saturday night of f Chatham light. Two other draggers that were fishing near by, the "Stella" and the"Rose Jarvis" immediately-con. p.4

1500 APPROPRIATED

$1500 was appropriated at a special Town Meeting held at Red Men's Hall, Friday night, to construct a b ridge over the cut through at little Beach. Voters began assembling at 8:30P.m. the time set for the meeting but the necessary quorum of 63 voters was not gained until after the Band Concert at 10:15 P.M. although the Fire Alarm was rung several times in an attempt to get enough voters. continued page 5

Marine News...by Ellen Fuller and Sam Rogers

Chatham- The Junior Crew competing for the Sears Bowl consisting of Walter Knollenberg Skipper, Dave Haller and Sam Rogers, came in second in the eliminations at Wianno. From Wianno they will go to the finals in Vineyard Haven.

Monday the Woman's crew is going to New Bedford for the eliminations of the Adam's cup series. This crew consists of Ellen Fuller Skipper, Laura Cobb, Molly Mather and Adele Squibb. Last weekend six boats went to Nantucket to the Regatta; only four boats-con.p 5

Edgartown-July 26- The first day of the Regatta dawned on a smokey sou-wester blowing the fog in thick. At 12:30 the larger classes started out into more promising atmosphere than had been experienced earlier in the day. At 2:05 the Mononoy Interclubs started and at con. p. 5

U.S. Life Saving Stations on Page 4-EXCLUSIVE!

THE CHATHAM CHATTER
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Chatham's Tax Rate

1937:$24.00 - 1938:$20.90 -1939 $18.90- 1940: $19.90.

We thought it might be of interest to our readers to know the reason for the increased tax rate this year, so we called on Mr. Denson, Town Clerk and Treasurer, and he gave us the answer. Here it is: each year a certain sum of money is appropriated from surplus revenue at Town Meeting to lower the tax rate of the year. In 1939 there was a large surplus on hand so the town felt free to appropriate $30,000 to lower the tax rate. This year only $13,000 of surplus revenue could be used for this purpose. Here are some other interesting facts on Chatham's finances: it takes an appropriation of about $6,000 to raise the tax rate $1.00. $20,000 is still owing on bonds issued for the school building. $5,000 worth is retired each July 1st. By 1944 the town will have paid off all the bonds. At both the 1939 and 1940 Town Meetings no special appropriations were made and the money spent was used mostly on routine affairs.

Intoxication and Crime

The recent death by stabbing of a well-known resident of Chatham, and the arrest and detention of an intimate friend of the deceased in that connection, have generated much discussion upon one branch of the case, namely; the relationship of intoxication to crime.

The Chatter realizes that pending the trial of a serious offense, comment or speculation regarding the guilt or probable guilt of the accused, no matter how damaging the facts may appear to be, would exceed the bounds of legitimate newspaper comment. Therefore, in giving the following carefully checked summary to its readers on the law involved in a very interesting phase of this startling case, the Chatter has carefully refrained from commenting on its relationship to some of the undisputed facts of that tragedy.

In Massachusetts the voluntary intoxication of a person accused of crime at the time he committed the crime is no d efense. In other words, if the accused voluntarily drinks and becomes intoxicated and while in that condition commits an act which would be a crime if he were sober, he is fully responsible whatever his condition may be, unless his intoxication has resulted in settled insanity as distinguished from mere intoxication.

It should be noted, th e mental excitement or frenzy produced by immoderate drinking does not exempt from responsibility. The insanity which excuses th e accused is that state of mind which is the product of a long continued habit of intemperence producing permanent mental disease amounting to insanity, which so weakens and impairs the mind that one committing an offense has not mind enough at the time to know right f rom wrong. The release from responsibility in such a case in the same as in the case of insanity arising fro other causes.

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Club News...

Tag Week

Central Cape Cod Kiwanis Club, a service club covering the towns of Chatham, Orleans, Harwich, Brewster and Dennis, has just completed a successful "Tag Week". The proceeds received during this drive will be used exclusively for the purpose of aiding underprivileged children and worthy boys and girls in these 5 towns. The entire returns have not yet been made, but it is believed that the goal of $800 will be reached.

The members of this Club and their wives and friends met at Camp Farley in Mashpee, on the 6th and dined with the boys and girls at camp. The board of directors of the Club voted the sum of $150 to pay the cost of material for the building of an additional lodge so that the camp will be able to accommodate additional boys and girls who might not otherwise be able to receive the benefits of such a camp. Camp Farley is a 4-H Club project and is a non-profit organization.

Central Cape Kiwanis lists among its accomplishments for 1939-40, milk cases, tonsil cases, eyeglass cases, dental drill and streilizer for Chatham schoolchildren, chicken and agricultural projects, and donations to various worthy boys and girls organizations.

The officers of the Club announce that although the regular week held as "Tag Week" has passed, additional donations which might be received would further increase the possibility of aid to underprivileged children. Igo W. Toabe

Red Cross

Activities of the Red Cross unit, which has been meeting in the Methodist Church, have been suspended until after Labor Day. Members are advised to watch the newspapers for news of the resumption of activities.

Historical Society

The Chatham Historical Society held its mid-season meeting Thursday afternoon, August 8th at the Old Atwood House. The meeting heard the report of its president, Mrs. C.A. Guild and other officers, and also transacted routine business in its business session. Following the business session Mrs. John Anthony spoke on "Old Mugs". Mrs. Anthony showed the group parts of her collection and described each piece briefly. Following Mrs. Anthony, Mr. Harold Dunbar read several of his articles. Following the meeting there was a social hour and the members viewed new addition to the Old Atwood House.

Garden Club

The next meeting of the Chatham Garden Club will be held on September 10th. Mr. William Woodward will address the group.

Auto Accident

A car driven by Russell Murphy of Florida collided with a car driven by James Scharfenberg of Newton Centre Thursday night, near the Mayflower Camp on Route 28. Murphy's car was smashed up considerably and two girls in the car with him suffered minor injuries. Chief of Police, Everett Eldredge, investigated.

Girl Lost Sailing

Barbara Meincke, 14 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Meincke, was lost for several hours Thursday night in her boat the "Barbara". A boat from the Chatham Coast Guard Station finally found her at Inward Point. Sea Scouts assisted in the search.

U.S. Life Saving Stations

Speaking of the Cape of yesterday, just a word of our routine maintained in the old U.S. Life Saving Stations, now called the "Coast Guard Stations",

In the U.S. Life Saving Stations the week began on Sunday night at midnight, and the days were set apart for some particular kind of employment.

On Monday the crew we employed putting the Station in order.

On Tuesday, weather permiting, the crew are drilled in launching and land the life boat through the surf.

On Wednesday, drilled in code signals.

On Thursday crew drill with beach apparatus and breeches-buoy.

On Friday the resuscitation drill for restoring the apparently drowned.

On Saturday wash day.

Thus keeping all hands busy at all times, except times of leave. Now we continue up the beach.

A. Friend.

Intoxication and Crime

continued from page 2

In spite of the foregoing, what occurs in actual practice should also be borne in mind. The aggravated drunkeness of the accused, although not amounting to insanity, might weigh considerably on the question as to whether a crime was committed with or without premeditation or because of sudden impulse or passion, whenever the intent of the accused becomes material. Convictions of a lesser degree of a crime occur, pleas of guilt to a lesser degree of a crime charged are accepted, at times of defendants, in a state of mind not amounting to insanity at the time a crime is committed, whether brought on by drunkeness or other causes, and sentences imposed are made more lenient at times for the same reason where the Judge sentencing is giving discretion as to the punishment to be imposed.

Inn Owner Murdered- continued f.p. 1

happened between him and Johnson the night before and Chief of Police Everett Eldredge stated he believed Rogers is telling the truth. The case has been continued for preliminary hearings at Harwich until August 14th.

Boat Rescued-continued from p. 1.

went to the assistance of the rapidly sinking boat and lashing her in between them towed the boat to the beach at Horne's Beach. Sunday morning the plans were fixed and the boat was towed back to New Bedford. Coast Guards assisted in the rescue.

The Foreign Situation

There is trouble arising in the Balkans again, this time about Greece and Albania. The British claimed about 2 days ago that there was quite a uprising in Albania. There were quite a few skirmishes reported.

The Italians then made a claim that the Greeks have assassinated the Albanian minority leader in a Greek province inhabited by Albanians and they would take action if it didn't stop, but I personally think this is just an excuse to invade Greece.

The Germans continued their air raids over England. Though they have bombed Dover and other ports and claimed a lot of these places were destroyed, they have not started their main offensive but in Africa it's a different story. ..

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1500 Appropriated-con. from p. 1.

The only article of the Warrant was the one asking for the bridge. There was no debate and a motion by the Ch airmen of the Board of Selectmen, Edwin Eldredge, was passed with f ew disenting votes. In a staten ent after the meeting Selectman Edwin Kidder said that the Selectman would meet immediately and th at contractors would be asked t o f urn ish all bids by the end of th is week. Work, he stated, should begin by the 20th.

The Foreign Situation con f. p. 4

The Italia ns have pushed far into British Somaliland and claimed its capture in a little while. Though they have not had a major engagemen t with the British main defense f orce, France may lose some more territory very soon because Japan is massin g a large part of its fleet n ear French Indo China but the Chin ese not willing to let the Japanese get another foothold so near to it and also in a area which the Japanese do not have a strong foothold, have massed troops along their border of French Indo China and will invade at any mon- ontif th e Japanese do.

Back in th e good old U.S. the compulsory Military training bill is facing th e senate.

What's th e matter with Lindbergh. We are not like one of those small Balkan States which can't resist Germany very long. This is 1940 not 1775 in case you haven't looked at the c alen dar, Mr. Lindbergh.

Frank B. Gilbert

A section of beach grass on Harding 's Beach was burned early Friday afternoon . The fire department was called out and when the fire threatened th e bank dirt was shoveled in to it!spath.

Marine News-con. from page 1.

Chatham- raced and Sam Rogers won. The S.H.Y.C. has rented for the remainder of the summerHorace Reynolds motor b oat, to use as a committee boat.

Barbara Meincke was lost in the f og in her catabout last Thursday. She anch ored h er boat off Inward Point and at 8 p.m walked home. Ellen Fuller

Edgartown- 3:05 the Stage Harbor Catabouts set forth at about 3:15 the fog shut in th ick again thus forcing the Race committee to cancel the last lap of the Catabouts. Sam Rogers was the winner with Mel Webster and David Haller coming in second and third. Howdie Meincke won the Monomoys with Jack Place second.

Saturday blessed the fleet with a beautifully sunshiny day but much to the disgust of all, the wind dropped to a glassy calm. All starts were postponed for several hours and even when the breeze did freshen only a few classes finished under the ti e limit. Howdie Meincke again won in the Monomoy class and Peter Hoyt won in the Catabouts with Sam Rogers and David Haller coming in that order. That evening, the tremendous Yawl "Mauxman" sailed into the harbor under full sail against a glorious sunset. It was one of those sights that just can't be described.

Harry and Pike Noyes "Tiogo Too" won the "Round th e Island Race" in th e longest race in club history. Sam Rogers.

Simeon Nickerson, former Railway Express Agent, died recently. He had retired 8 years ago.

We suggest that automobile drivers use the big parking space in back of Gould's Bank.